

Col. Holden led the Highway Patrol during its initial accreditation by the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in 2000, and through the re-accreditation process in 2003. Accreditation by CALEA means that an agency has met the highest international standards for law enforcement.

In September 2003, Holden was appointed to the position of CALEA commissioner. In October 2003, he was elected to the position of General Chair of the State and Provincial Police of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He also served on the Highway Safety Committee of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. Holden served five years on the Executive Committee of the North State Law Enforcement Association.

“Governor Easley asked me to make the Patrol more professional and remove troopers from long-standing political pressures and I feel confident that I have accomplished that goal,” said Holden. “I look forward to working on the selection process for the new Commander to ensure the continued integrity of the organization.”

A Wendell native, Holden attended N.C. A&T State University. He began his patrol career in Fayetteville in 1969, then was promoted to line sergeant and transferred to Winston-Salem. In 1984, he was promoted to first sergeant and transferred to the Raleigh Training Center.

He was promoted to lieutenant in 1987 and to captain in 1990 when he became Troop B Commander in Fayetteville, supervising operations for 11 counties. Promoted to major in 1993, he became director of internal affairs at patrol headquarters in Raleigh, lieutenant colonel in 1997, and was appointed colonel in 1999.

Holden is married to Sandra Daye Holden and has a daughter, Shonda and son, Richard, Jr.

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